

Montana State Senate



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RE: MB Docket No. 15-149

Tom Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

As a proud member of the Montana State Senate, I am writing today regarding the merger of Charter Communications, Time Warner Cable and Bright House Networks into New Charter. My constituents need a cable broadband company that will put their needs first. I believe New Charter would do this through its investments in innovation and commitment to network neutrality.

New Charter would fulfill several commitments to improve service for customers living with outdated broadband technology. The company would continue Charter's efforts to upgrade all customers to a digital platform, which includes providing its cloud-based guide. In addition, New Charter would invest in in-home and out-of-home WiFi access, deploying 300,000 out-of-home connections throughout the country. Its heaviest investment would be in commercial and residential networks, which would see infrastructure in rural and underserved areas upgraded to fiber-optics.

New Charter's investments are a clear indicator of its drive for innovation. Meanwhile, its commitment to network neutrality underscores its desire to keep a free and open Internet the status quo. The company would do so by not favoring certain domains or issuing data caps or usage-based billing. I am impressed with New Charter's firm commitment, and believe my constituents would benefit from the policy.

New Charter's commitments to innovation and network neutrality are commendable, and I hope they ensure the merger is approved.

Sincerely,

Senator Elsie Arntzen
Montana State Senate, District 26